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THE PEACE CONGRESS IN LONDON.

REV. RUEEN THOMAS, D. D.

Most of the resolutions were passed unanimously, though not always without vigorous debate. But factiousness and unreasonableness were very remarkably absent. There were elements in the meetings decidedly non-Christian. This prevented any meetings except the first being opened with prayer.* Moreover, it indicated that the ground on which the opinions and action of men were built is not always the same. The Christian men and women present did not fail in courage. They asserted their allegiance to "another King, one Jesus." This was specially the case with some of the Quaker members present. Madame Thoumain of Switzerland, a beautiful and accomplished lady, began her brief and pithy address with prayer. It was bravely done. The lovely face and exquisitely toned voice of this lady did not at all detract from the weight and courage of her utterances.

Altogether the meetings have been a remarkable illustration of the power of great sentiments and great aims to bring men of different nationalities into genuine fraternal accord. It has seemed almost as if an International Parliament had assembled—a foretaste of that "Parliament of Man, the federation of the world," of which Tennyson sings in Locksley Hall. I am sure the delegates separated regretfully and with genuine mutual respect. The work of arbitration recently set on foot at Washington, so promising in its possible results, had no small influence in giving hope of larger federations in the future. The dream of the past seemed to be developing into the fact of the present. If such a Congress as this can assemble, and conduct its affairs so amicably and with so much of genuine fraternity, why cannot a high court of arbitration for all civilized nations assemble to arbitrate, and arbitrate successfully, on international difficulties? It is amazing how much can be done when there is "the willing mind." Whenever there has been a sincere determination to arbitrate international questions, the results have been excellent. May we not hope that all Christians will soon exercise such an influence in society that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and men learn war no more?

Several members of the Congress made emphatic assertion of the absolute necessity of Christians reading their new Testament with more attentive reference to its spirit on the subject of war. Some of those who were not Christians expressed their astonishment at the blindness on this theme of those who professed to be Christians. The hall in which the Congress assembled was decorated with the flags of all civilized nations, but conspicuous among them were the words, in large, bold letters, "He shall be called the Prince of Peace." One felt humiliated at the too frequent references to the un-Christian character of many Christians. When we consider the dreadful fact that there are twenty-eight millions of men ready for war in Europe to-day, it seems incredible that Christian people can be so supine in their concern as to the frightful meaning of a fact like this. "Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God," seems almost a forgotten text, in Europe at any rate. Those who contend that no country can have influence in fostering peace unless it is driven to the teeth for war must tell us why it is that in this Congress the influence of America was supreme. If we

can conduct the affairs of our great territory with a few thousand soldiers only, why cannot other nations do the like?—*Congregationalist*.

*Five minutes before each session was spent in vocal or silent prayer. An interesting prayer-meeting was held in an ante-room every morning for three-quarters of an hour before the session.—Ed.

WHITTIER'S LATEST POEM.

At a reception given to Mrs. John A. Logan by Mr. D. Lothrop at his home at Concord, Mass., once the home of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ex-Gov. J. D. Long presided. Rev. A. E. Winship read a poem by Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward and Mr. Long read the following letter, which had been received from the poet John G. Whittier, and the accompanying poem, specially written for the occasion:

ELIOT, ME., Aug. 1, 1890.

Dear Mr. Lothrop:

It would give me great pleasure to accept thy kind invitation to meet at your "Wayside" Mrs. Logan, a lady for whom I have the highest respect, not only as regard for herself personally, but as the life companion of a brave and noble man, whose memory will be kept green forever in the American heart.

I cannot be with you on the 14th, owing to my state of health, but I send some lines which I hope may not seem inappropriate. I am, very truly thy friend,

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

OUR COUNTRY.

Our thought of thee is glad with hope,
Dear country of our love and prayers!
Thy way is down no fatal slope,
But up to freer sun and airs.
Tried as by furnace fires, and yet
By God's grace only stronger made,
In future tasks before thee set
Thou shalt not lack the-old time aid.
The fathers sleep, but men remain
As true and wise and brave as they;
Why count the loss without the gain,
The best is that we have to-day.
No lack was in thy primal stock,
No weakling founders builded here,
Thine were the men of Plymouth Rock,
The Puritan and Cavalier.
And they whose firm endurance gained
The freedom of the souls of men,
Whose hands unstained, in peace maintained
The swordless commonwealth of Penn.
And thine shall be the power of all
To do the work that duty bids;
And make the people's council hall
As lasting as the pyramids.
Thy lesson all the world shall learn,
The nations at thy feet shall sit;
Earth's farthest mountain tops shall burn
With watchfires from thine own uplift.
Great, without seeking to be great
By fraud or conquest—rich in gold,
But richer in the large estate
Of virtue which thy children hold.
With peace that comes of purity,
And strength to simple justice due,
So runs our loyal dream of thee;
God of our fathers! make it true.
Oh, Land of lands! to thee we give
Our love, our trust, our service free;
For thee thy sons shall nobly live,
And at thy need shall die for thee!